



SAFEGUARD YOUNG
PEOPLE PROGRAMME
2018 ANNUAL REPORT





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LIST OF INSTITUTIONAL ACRONYMS

AfriYAN	African Youth Network on Population and Development
SADC	Southern Africa Development Community
SADC-PF	Southern Africa Development Community Parliamentary Forum
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
TCG	Technical Coordination Group
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WHO	World Health Organization
YWCA	Young Women's Christian Association

THE FACTS

YOUTH IN OUR REGION



ADOLESCENT BIRTH RATE
GIRLS AGED 15 - 19

**93 PER
1,000**

World's second highest



CONDOM USE AT LAST
HIGH-RISK SEX AMONGST
YOUTH AGED 15-24

* SWOP 2018

Young Women **45%**

Young Men **61%**



WEEKLY NEW
HIV INFECTIONS
AMONG YOUNG
WOMEN AGED 15 - 24

* GLOBAL AIDS UPDATE 2018

4,308



NET ENROLMENT
RATE IN SECONDARY
SCHOOL EDUCATION

Females **31%**

Males **33%**

World's lowest



PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL
POPULATION AGED
10 - 24

* SWOP 2018

32%

World's highest along with
West & Central Africa



CORRECT & COMPREHENSIVE
KNOWLEDGE ABOUT HIV
AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE
AGED 15 - 24

* UNAIDS Prevention
Gap Report 2016

Males	2000-2008	35%
	2009-2015	42%
Females	2000-2008	25%
	2009-2015	38%

OUR WORK

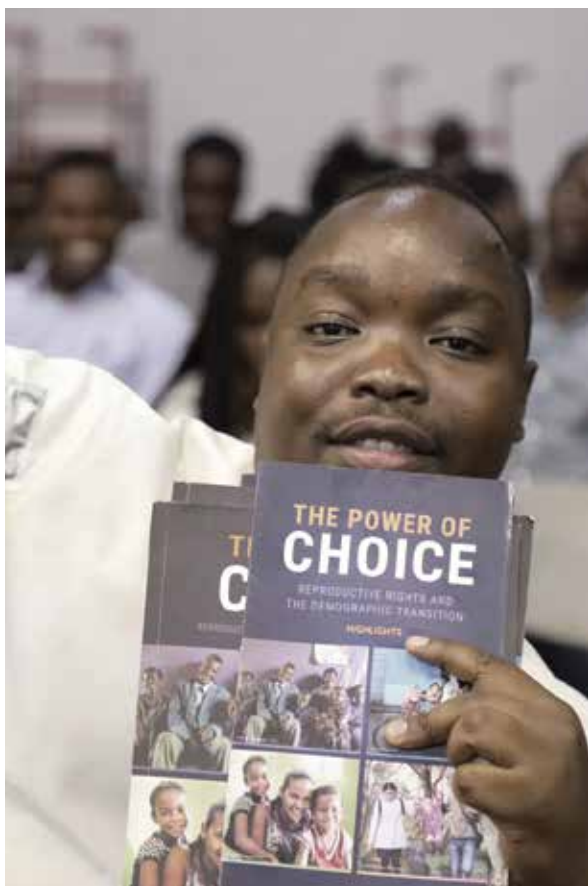
The year 2018 marked the fifth year of the Safeguard Young People (SYP) Programme, it was also the second year of its Phase II, 2017-2019. SYP is UNFPA East and Southern Africa youth flagship programme, supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and other development partners according to the different countries of implementation.

Now, exactly in the middle of Phase II, we look back and we also look forward – to what we have already accomplished, often exceeding expectations, and to what we need to do to meet our targets for 2019.

SYP aims to empower young people aged 10 to 24 years to lead healthy lives and to protect themselves from sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV, from unintended pregnancies, unsafe abortions, early marriages, gender-based violence and harmful cultural practices. At the same time, SYP promotes inclusiveness, gender equitable norms and protective behaviours.

SYP works in eight countries in Southern Africa: Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

SYP is the only programme in the region that fully operationalizes the East and Southern Africa (ESA) Ministerial Commitment on comprehensive sexuality education and sexual and reproductive health services for adolescents and young people.



HOW OUR WORK CHANGES LIVES

Using a human rights and holistic approach, SYP addresses young people's needs through:

ADVOCACY

Improving the policy, legal, and programming environments

KNOWLEDGE

Increasing young people's knowledge and skills to adopt protective sexual behaviours

HEALTH

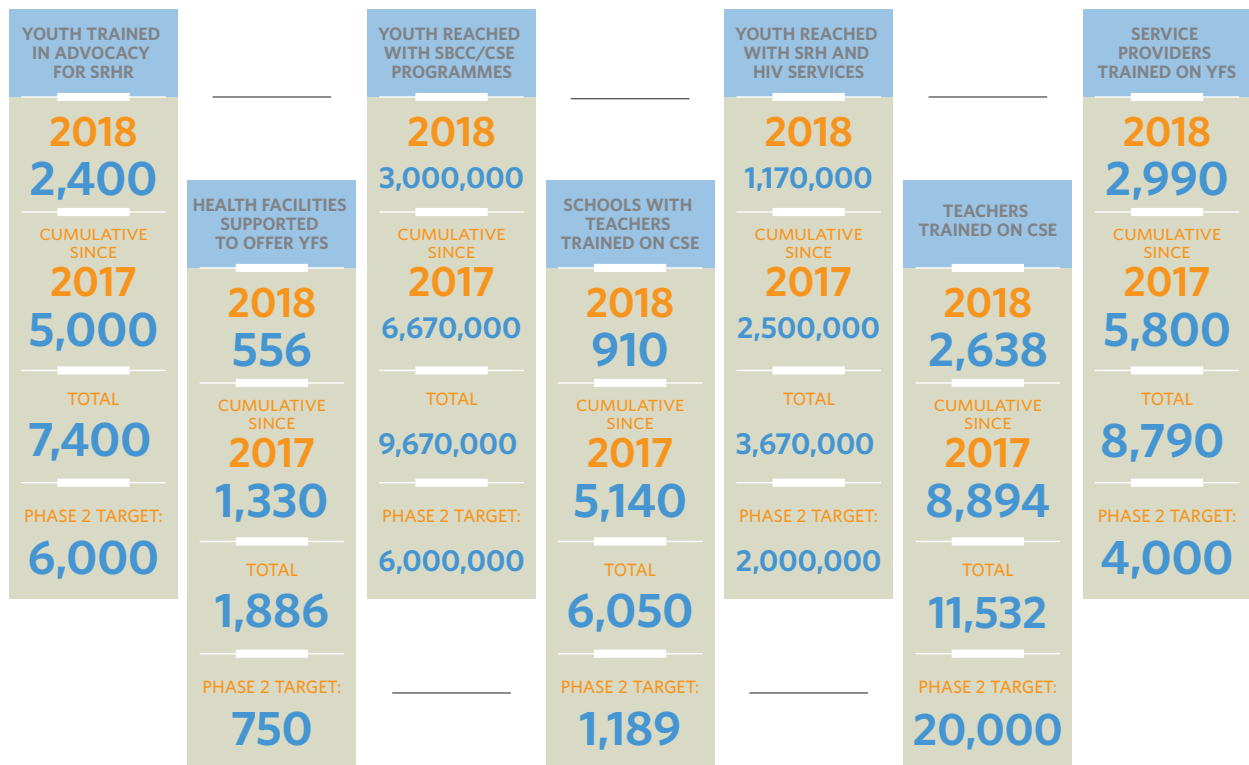
Expanding access and improving quality of youth-friendly integrated sexual and reproductive health services

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

Promoting meaningful participation of young people in decision-making processes

KNOWLEDGE, HEALTH, EMPOWERMENT

Key Results in 2018 - Phase II Targets

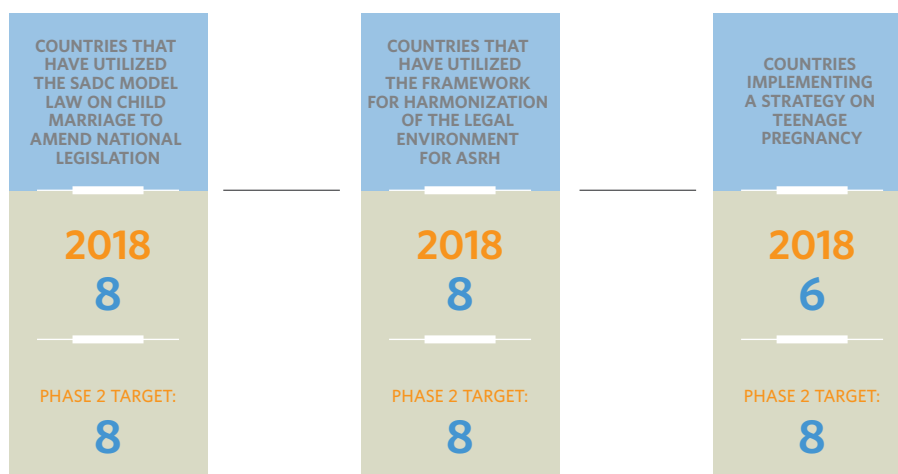


Point of reflection

One challenge in training is the frequent transfers of teachers among schools. The good news is that the Phase II target of 1,189 schools with teachers trained and teaching CSE has already been exceeded more than four-fold.

BUILDING AN ENABLING POLICY ENVIRONMENT

Key Regional Results in 2018 - Phase II Targets



OUR IMPACT

AT A GLANCE

16



NAMIBIA

258 health providers trained on youth-friendly SRH/HIV/GBV services.
Target: 225

4,000



BOTSWANA

4,000 Tune Me users registered.
Target: 3,500

40



SOUTH AFRICA

40 youth-friendly health facilities supported, reaching 28,250 young users.
Target: 40

250,000



LESOTHO

25,000 adolescents reached with integrated SRH/HIV health services.
Target: 5,000

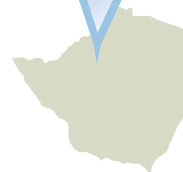
258



ZAMBIA

258 health providers trained on youth-friendly SRH/HIV/GBV services.
Target: 225

598,000



ZIMBABWE

598,000 youth reached with AYFHS.
Target: 363,382

98%



ESWATINI

98% of secondary schools provide Life Skills Education, reaching 130,000 students.
Target: 100%

337,200

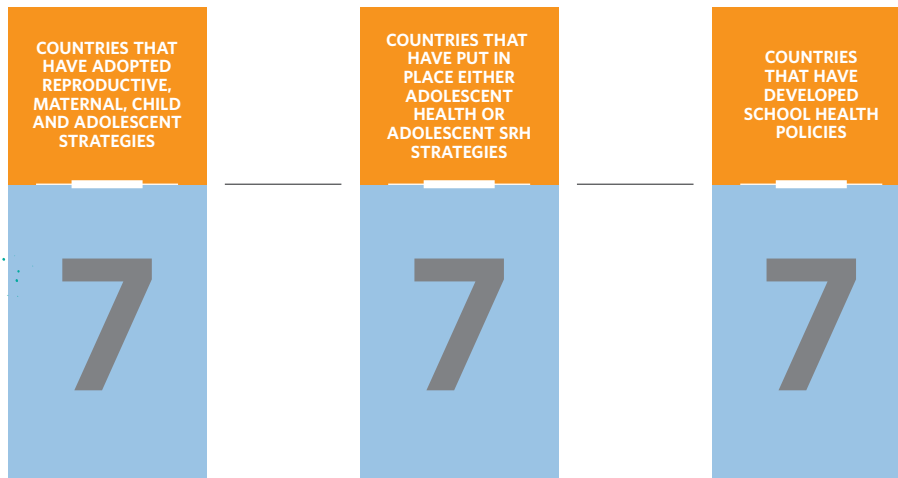


MALAWI

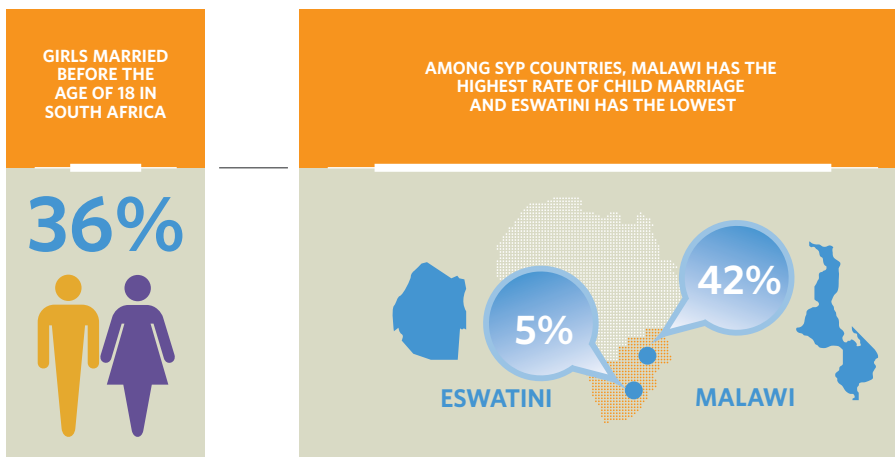
337,220 youth reached with SRHR information.
Target: 250,000

ADVOCACY, LAW AND POLICY ENVIRONMENT

Progress among the 8 SYP countries as of end 2018



Facts about child marriage



Outcome:

Strengthened capacity of regional and national stakeholders to advocate and lobby for a conducive legal and policy framework for young people.

In 2018, we witnessed the impact of previous SYP research and advocacy around laws and policies that affect young people's SRHR. The research studies are proving to be an effective tool for advocates and policy-makers, who use the evidence to drive change in their countries.

Advocating for youth rights. Key Highlights in 2018

- Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe and SADC utilized the SADC Model Law on Child Marriage to advance the rights of adolescents and young people.
- UNFPA ESARO, SADC-PF and Girls not Brides launched the Guide to the Use of the SADC Model Law on Eradicating Child Marriage and Protecting Children already in Marriage. This tool is used by civil society organizations, parliamentarians and youth advocates working to end child marriage.

Monitoring action on women, girls and HIV

SYP supported the Regional Women's Parliamentary Caucus of the SADC Parliamentary Forum (SADC-PF) in developing the Gender Responsive Oversight Model (GROM). This is a tool to monitor the implementation of the SADC-sponsored Resolution 60/2 of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) on women, the girl child, HIV and AIDS. GROM has been piloted in Angola and Malawi. In April 2018, at the CSW 62nd session, GROM was presented as a major achievement at an event led by SADC-PF and supported by SYP, UNAIDS and UN Women.

- UNFPA ESARO and the government of South Africa co-hosted the first East and Southern African symposium on menstrual health management (MHM) in May in Johannesburg. The Symposium launched the African Coalition for MHM, with more than 400 members and a Secretariat hosted by UNFPA ESARO.
- **Enough with the silence!** As a key partner of the African Union (AU) Campaign to End Child Marriage 2014-2017, UNFPA ESARO supported the Second AU Girl Summit held in Accra, Ghana, in November. The Summit extended the AU Campaign to 2023. At the two-day youth pre-summit, young activists called on governments to strengthen law enforcement and to increase budget allocations to end child marriage.



ADVOCACY - SPOTLIGHT ON COUNTRIES IN 2018

BOTSWANA

- SYP supported the Ministry of Health and Wellness in organizing consultations with a vast spectrum of young people around the Adolescent Health Strategy and HIV Prevention Service Packages for Young People.

Successful youth advocacy

SYP built advocacy skills of young activists who participated in the revision of section 147 of the Penal Code regarding age of consent. Their advocacy succeeded in introducing a Close-in-Age provision of two years, with 18 years set as the minimum age when consensual sex is allowed, thus decriminalizing consensual sexual activity between adolescents.

ESWATINI

- Comprehensive Life Skills Education and teenage pregnancy prevention interventions were integrated in the National Education Sector Policy, which was presented to Cabinet for approval.
- SYP supported the review of the National Youth Policy and drafting of the National Youth Strategy.

LESOTHO

- Two sections from the SADC Model Law will be used in the revision of Lesotho's Child Protection and Welfare Act of 2011.
- SYP advocacy against child marriage targeted parliamentarians and media, as well as communities in the Thaba-Tseka district, especially young herders.

MALAWI

- SYP facilitated the review and dissemination of the Learner Readmission Policy approved by Cabinet. The policy will help girls who have dropped out of school due to early pregnancy, forced marriage, or other factors, to continue with their education.
- Government began developing the Parent-Child Communication Package around sexuality and SRHR.

NAMIBIA

- SYP provided technical support to the SRH/HIV and AIDS governance project implemented by Parliament.
- SYP supported the review of the National Youth Policy.

SOUTH AFRICA

- UNFPA and UNICEF supported the development of the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of the National Youth Policy. The U-Report system led by UNFPA and UNICEF will channel young people's feedback on the services offered.

ZAMBIA

- SYP supported a high level advocacy meeting to revise the minimum age of consent for SRH services for adolescents downwards to age 14 or 12 years. It is currently set at 16 years, which limits adolescents' access to and use of such services.
- SYP supported the development of a standardized package of adolescent health services to be finalized in 2019.

ZIMBABWE

- UNFPA and UN agencies supported the development of the Zimbabwe School Health Policy launched in June, to be followed by a School Health Strategy, in fulfilment of the ESA commitment.
- The Zimbabwe AfriYAN received advocacy training and established a Youth Policy Tracking Group. At the Public Health Bill hearings, the Group advocated lowering the age of consent to health services, currently interpreted as being 18 years although the legal age of consent to sex is 12. The Bill was passed into law without this amendment but the Group will continue advocating.

KNOWLEDGE

CSE COVERAGE

In 2018, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, South Africa and Zambia achieved close to 100% CSE coverage in primary and secondary schools.



CSE CURRICULUM

All 8 SYP countries have a good quality CSE curriculum in place and provide pre- and/or in-service training programmes on the delivery of CSE.

CSE STRATEGY

All 8 SYP countries have a national CSE strategy or framework for out-of-school youth and have adapted the UNFPA Regional Resource Package for out-of-school CSE.



Outcomes

1. Strengthened capacity of institutions to design and implement integrated, quality CSE in schools.
2. Strengthened capacity of institutions to deliver quality CSE and SBCC for out-of-school adolescents and young people.

KNOWLEDGE: REGIONAL MILESTONES

Through the targets and accountability framework of ESA Ministerial Commitment, the eight SYP countries are among the highest performing in the region:

- All 8 countries are implementing a multisectoral strategy or framework for costed operationalization of the ESA Commitment, including the SYP programme.

Early and Unintended Pregnancy (EUP)

SYP technically supported a situational analysis on EUP that was presented at the ESA Commitment Technical Coordination Group (TCG). The review, led by UNESCO, looked at the magnitude of the problem in Eswatini, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe, as well as policies, statistics, interventions, availability of data, challenges and perceptions of key stakeholders. The review found that the rate of EUP is increasing in the 10 countries studied and that it is linked to poverty, GBV, child marriage and other harmful cultural practices. While many countries have policies to prevent EUP and to ensure that girls continue their education after pregnancy, implementation of these policies is patchy, partly due to lack of awareness by communities, but mostly as a result of negative norms and attitudes towards girls who become pregnant. The rollout of a regional campaign is planned for 2019.

Tune Me

SYP's powerful information tool - Tune Me - has become a global resource since its URL migrated to the UNFPA Headquarters' server in New York. The Tune Me Global URL (tuneme.org) enables visitors to reach their Tune Me country sites. Internet Protocol geo-location identifies visitors' locations and directs them to the subdomain or to the global site. An abstract on Tune Me was presented at the International SBCC Summit and an article was published in the Journal of Development Communication. <http://jdc.journals.unisel.edu.my/ojs/index.php/jdc/issue/view/7> .

Point of reflection.

In Zimbabwe, Facebook is the most popular option to access TuneMe because of the high cost of data bundles on cell phones. From January to September 2018, 360,190 person exposures to mass media were recorded, 85% of these on Facebook.

“When UNFPA says, ‘put young people first’, we really mean it – youth are at the centre of everything we do.”

Dr. Julitta Onabanjo, UNFPA Regional Director.

KNOWLEDGE: COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS IN 2018

BOTSWANA

- The radio show *Don't get it twisted* aired 24 programmes. Topics ranged from contraceptives to revision of the age of consent to sex.

ESWATINI

- SYP drove the rollout of Life Skills Education (LSE) to 98% of all secondary schools, reaching some 130,000 students.
- A national LSE manual for out-of-school youth, adapted from the SYP regional resource package, was developed and piloted in the Shiselweni region.

LESOTHO

- SYP supported the revision of the CSE Curriculum for the Lesotho College of Education.
- The Ministry of Education and Training held a 3-day workshop to develop a monitoring tool for quality delivery of CSE in schools.

MALAWI

- The Ministry of Education has certified Nalikule Teacher Training College as a centre of excellence for CSE on-line training courses.
- 163 female and 116 male initiation rites counsellors were capacitated on CSE.

At the Boys' Camps in Malawi, participants reported that they lack access to SRH services, that they grow up not understanding issues of sexuality, and that most parents and guardians focus more on girls, leaving boys out. SYP will address their concerns.

NAMIBIA

- UNFPA, UNESCO and the Ministry of Education organized a consultation on integrating CSE in university teachers' curricula and a Training of Trainers for 28 lecturers, who in turn will train 800 student teachers.
- SYP and the office of the First Lady launched the #BeFree Movement in two regions, reaching 1,500 young people and service providers.

SOUTH AFRICA

- UNFPA, in collaboration with government departments and technical partners, finalized the CSE implementation framework. CSE is being piloted in five provinces.

ZAMBIA

- Condomize! activities were held at four traditional ceremonies and other venues, reaching 100,000 young people.
- 338 teachers and health care workers were trained on CSE.

Strengthening linkages between CSE and use of health services in Zambia

While CSE is able to create demand for SRH services among students, there are limited or no linkages between schools and nearby health facilities. Within the CSE project, a study is developing a model to strengthen these linkages in 23 schools and health facilities in Solwezi and Mufumbwe districts. The study is led by the Population Council of Zambia, in collaboration with UNESCO, UNFPA, Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) and the government.

ZIMBABWE

- 500 teachers from 140 secondary schools and 20 peer educators were trained on counselling and CSE.
- SYP supported community interventions such as Sista2Sista (S2S), Girls Only Clubs, CSE for out-of-school youth, and Parent Child Communication.
- 18,307 girls were recruited into S2S clubs, exceeding the target by 112%.

A YOUNG TEEN REBELS AGAINST FORCED MARRIAGE



Catherine Mkandawire was barely 13 years old when her poor parents decided to marry her off to an older man. This is not unusual in Malawi, where one in ten women aged 20-24 was married before age 15, and half were married before age 18.

"My parents locked me in a house for two weeks and called older women from the village to advise me on marriage and how to please a man," she recalls. "I thought I was ready but when I saw the man, he was old enough to be my grandfather and I knew I had to fight."

While many girls have no other option but to obey, she knew that marriage at a young age would end her dreams of becoming a teacher. She stubbornly refused to marry this and other suitors her parents brought.

Ms. Mkandawire, now aged 25, and a member of the Malawi National Youth Network, says that experience led to her quest to empower others.

"I resisted because I wanted more for myself and for my future and now I fight for my fellow young people's rights," she says

HEALTH SERVICES

45% of all HIV infections and 53% of people living with HIV globally are in East and Southern Africa.

Gender disparities continue to be a major driver of the HIV epidemic. Adolescent girls and young women account for 25% of new HIV infections, against 12% in boys and young men. However, AIDS-related mortality is higher among men and young men compared to women.



REGIONAL MILESTONES: 2018

SYP and the UN 2gether 4 SRHR gave technical support to develop the SADC Regional Strategy on SRHR 2019-2030 and its accompanying Scorecard.

SYP provided technical support to the Regional Consultative Workshop to Strengthen Condom Programming in Southern Africa, held in June in Johannesburg.

SYP and the 2gether 4SRHR programme produced a desk review of lessons learned on costing, budgeting and financing of adolescent and youth SRH. The findings will guide the costing of adolescent SRHR as part of an integrated minimum package of SRHR services, within the context of Universal Health Coverage. UNFPA ESARO and SADC agreed to update the SADC Minimum Standards for the Integration of HIV and SRH.



HEALTH SERVICES: COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Botswana

- SYP supported the development of the implementation plan for the national YFHS standards.

Eswatini

- 9,700 young people used SRH services in selected facilities. Target: 10,000.
- An ASRH module for tertiary institutions was developed and adopted.
- 57 health community workers were capacitated on provision of AYFHS.

Lesotho

- SYP supported the Ministry of Health in monitoring the progress made in health centres in Thaba-Tseka district after training on provision of AYFHS.
- 25,000 adolescents were reached with the standard package of health services through the collaboration of SYP, Elizabeth Glaser Paediatric AIDS Foundation and Lesotho Planned Parenthood Association.

Malawi

- 337, 220 young people and adolescents accessed AYFHS through outreach clinics.
- 388 health providers were capacitated in YFHS as trainers.
- 42 service delivery points supported, up from 39 in 2017.

Namibia

- SYP and Namibia Planned Parenthood Association supported 16 AYF health facilities that provided integrated HIV/SRH services to 15,430 young people. Target: 6,000

South Africa

- 28,250 young people were reached with YFHS. Target: 30,000
- 20 health facilities in KwaZulu Natal and 20 in the Eastern Cape are piloting tools to collect data disaggregated by age, sex, and services.

Zambia

- 258 health care providers were capacitated in adolescent-friendly integrated SRH/HIV/GBV service provision in Mufumbwe and Solwezi districts.
- 164,056 adolescents used AYF health services.
- A tool to collect adolescent health disaggregated data was developed and piloted.

Zimbabwe

- An assessment showed that 306 health facilities (85%) met the nine national clinical standards for AYFHS.
- SYP supported the institutionalization of AYFHS in the pre-service training of nurses and midwives.
- 23 clinic staff were capacitated in AYFHS in four nursing colleges.

“UNFPA gives us the statistical picture and this helps us to appreciate how big the problem is. Slowly we are changing how we handle these issues in our communities.”

Joseph Kabamba, MP Zambia

BRICK BY BRICK.. BUILDING A BETTER LIFE



For Kudakwashe Josaka, 22, a high school dropout, the future looked bleak. “In Zimbabwe, you don’t go very far without an education,” she says.

But today Ms. Josaka is a trained bricklayer able to support her three-year-old daughter. “A lack of education cannot stop someone from achieving her dreams,” she says.

Ms. Josaka works with the Hopley Infrastructure Development Project, which is building a youth centre and a clinic that will serve 65,000 young people in a poor suburb near Harare, the capital. Hopley is riddled with unemployment, bad sanitation and chronic typhoid and cholera outbreaks.

UNFPA has partnered with the International Labour Organization, the City of Harare Health Department, and a private company, LaFarge Cement, in this project.

One hundred youth, half of them female, were selected for skills training. Fifty learned brick and block laying, carpentry, plumbing and electrical work, while another 50 learned cobblestone technology to build roads. In addition, through peer educators, trainees learn how to avoid unwanted pregnancies, early marriage, HIV infection, and dropping out of school.

Besides teaching skills, creating jobs, and introducing healthy choices, the project promotes gender equality by bringing women into traditionally male-dominated work. “There are no jobs meant only for women or for men. We are all equal,” says Ms. Josaka. “I feel proud because very few women work in building.”

THE WAY OUT OF POVERTY IS NOT THROUGH UNSAFE SEX

Tandzile Dlamini, 20, from Nhlngano in Eswatini, thought her world had ended when her parents died. She was 14 years old. She saw poor girls resort to unprotected sex with blessers, getting pregnant or infected with STIs, and dropping out of school. She didn't want that to happen to her.

Through a chance introduction to a SYP-funded project with the Family Life Association of Swaziland, Ms. Dlamini became a peer educator, teaching young people about condom use, healthy relationships and human rights, and was later promoted to communications coordinator.

Although she sometimes faces pressure from older people who think that talking about sexual and reproductive health is taboo, she is not deterred.

Ms. Dlamini, 20, radiates self-confidence: "I am a young, brave, talented woman who believes in true love, and I am also an independent woman."



YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

Empowering young people to become agents of change

Outcome

Strengthened capacity of adolescents and youth networks to meaningfully participate in international, regional and national decision making platforms.

AfriYAN

The UNFPA-supported Pan African youth network AfriYAN held a retreat for its new executive committee and finalized its communication strategy. UNFPA supported the participation of youth advocates in eight conferences, where AfriYAN was strategically positioned in the steering and planning committees. Financial and technical support was provided for several youth pre-conferences, mentorship, implementation and reporting.

Africa Union Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment

At the first planning meeting for the AU Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment 2019-2024, UNFPA ESARO championed the inclusion of key ICPD and demographic dividend issues in the Plan.

Youth Leadership, Participation and Accountability 2.0 (YLPA 2.0)

The new partnership of UNFPA ESARO with Restless Development, called Youth-led Accountability 2.0 (YLPA 2.0), organized a series of roundtable discussions at global, regional and national level, as well as online consultations with more than 200 young people from the region. In 2019, YLPA 2.0 will produce a training package on youth-led accountability, a digital campaign, a checklist on youth engagement for development practitioners and a set of recommendations to better support youth networks on SRHR, HIV and gender equality.

What is Youth-Led Accountability?

It means enabling young people, through increased capacity, access and agency, to hold decision-makers accountable for the commitments they have made towards sustainable development. Half the world's population is under 30 and nine in 10 of these young people live in developing countries. Never before and never again will there be such a large generation of young people ready and able to deliver change in their communities. We must therefore engage and mobilize the enormous potential of the global youth population to make these promises a reality. <http://restlessdevelopment.org/news/all/2019/03/07/ylpa-report-launch>

SADC Protocol and SADC Youth Forum

SYP participated in the SADC Youth Forum held in December in Windhoek, Namibia, in preparation for the meeting of SADC Ministers of Youth planned for 2019. SYP presented a concept note for the SADC Protocol on Children and Young People Rights and a baseline study providing evidence for this initiative, which has been led by UNFPA and civil society organizations since 2017.

Training on peace, security and youth in humanitarian action

Under SYP auspices and in collaboration with UNFPA Headquarters and the World Organization of Scouts, UNFPA ESARO developed and piloted a training package on youth, peace, security and humanitarian action. The package will be used by UNFPA in other regions.

Youth Connekt Africa 2018

YouthConnekt is a platform that links Africa's youth with socioeconomic transformation. At the Youth Connekt annual convention in Kigali, Rwanda, UNFPA, Imbutu Foundation and other partners organized a panel discussion titled "Straight Talk: transforming Africa through preventing teenage pregnancy".

It examined the realities, challenges and solutions for teen pregnancy from the perspective of young people. UNFPA shared good practices from SYP and the UNFPA Innovation Accelerator.

SYP GOVERNANCE AND COORDINATION

Outcome

Effective coordination, partnerships, and M&E of SYP programme implemented at regional and national levels.

Our regional coordination mechanisms provide effective direction and strategic guidance through annual regional meetings and national coordination groups. The active participation of Principal Secretaries and Directors from the key Ministries of Health, Education, and Youth at these meetings is a sign of national ownership and integration of SYP objectives into sustainable country programmes for adolescents and young people.

24-25 April 2018, Lusaka, Zambia


The 2018 Annual SYP Steering Committee Meeting (SCM) reviewed the regional and country presentations on progress made in 2017, endorsed the 2018 Annual Work Plans, identified strategies to address gaps and shortfalls, and shared best practices and lessons learned for potential replication in other countries.

The annual donor field visit followed the SCM. During the two-day trip to Solwezi in Zambia's Western Province, the team noted better quality of interventions, especially messaging, and was moved by the compelling testimonies they heard at Mulemba Safe Space for Girls.

21-23 November 2018, Johannesburg, South Africa

The coordination meeting for year 2 of Phase II brought together key implementing partners from the eight countries, the UNFPA Country Offices, UNFPA ESARO and SDC. This annual reflection and planning exercise is a valuable opportunity to review progress, identify best practices and respond to challenges experienced. The meeting refined the 2019 Annual Work Plans and started brainstorming the proposal for SYP Phase III.


SYP country teams were capacitated to integrate environmental concerns into their programming using the Climate, Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction Integration Guidance (CEDRIG) tool developed by SDC. Under SDC guidance, country teams applied CEDRIG to their work. Their final reports will be submitted to SDC in 2019.



"We need to be honest to say what are the consequences of engaging in unprotected sex – STI, HIV and pregnancy. Let's talk to young people, let's understand where they are coming from, let's understand their social context."

*Dumisani Mnisi, Executive Director,
Save The Children Eswatini*





“In Africa, menstrual health and hygiene are often looked at as taboo and people are quite uncomfortable talking about them.” Natasha Mwansa, 17, from Zambia, an activist for girls’ rights since age 12, speaking at the AU Girls’ Summit in Accra.

LOOKING AHEAD

Evaluation studies show significant progress in SYP countries – among others, in two core areas of our work: adopting progressive policies on adolescent and youth SRHR and, reaffirming political commitment to expand access to youth-friendly health services.

In addition, SYP’s regional approach to sharing its resources and experience is having a catalytic effect beyond its geographical scope. Three highly effective SYP tools have triggered interest in Africa and beyond: the work on harmonizing the legal and policy environment for ASRH and the Regional, the CSE Resource Package for Out of School Young People and www.tuneme.org.

We thank SYP funders and partners who share our belief that it is the right of adolescents and young people to be healthy, educated, productive and empowered as responsible citizens. Together we are working to build young people’s capacities and enable the realization of these rights.

TOP TAKEAWAYS

Sustainability and value for money strategies will ensure the long-lasting value of SYP investments on young people.

Effective delivery and expansion of AYFHS requires continuous capacity building and political support. Young people’s participation in policy dialogues makes their voices and opinions count in policy-shaping.

A gender-and-rights-based approach is needed to respond to the SHRH-related needs, vulnerabilities and challenges of young men and boys.

Efficient coordination among partners, local ownership and government leadership are essential in programme implementation.

Strong partnership, with a plurality of donors and key actors, within and outside the UN, will underpin programme sustainability.



*"The time has come for young people to
take their seats and be counted"*

Dr Natalia Kanem, UNFPA Executive Director




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